

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 31 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 16 and 31 are independent. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the abstract was objected to for allegedly being too short and for not adequately conveying the invention. Accordingly, Applicant has replaced the abstract, as shown above. The new abstract has 70 words and paraphrases the invention, as defined by independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the objection to the abstract is requested.

The disclosure was objected to for an informality relating to reference numerals 114, 116, 118 and 120 on page 13. The offending paragraph has been rewritten, and withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 31 to 34 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 32 to 34 have been cancelled, rendering the §112 rejection moot.

Claims 1 to 34 were rejected under §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,009,442 (Chen). As shown above, Applicant has amended the independent claims to define the invention with greater clarity. In view of these clarifications, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection are respectfully requested.

Amended independent claim 1 defines a graphical user interface (GUI) for editing a composite document comprised of separate documents having an ordered relationship. The GUI includes an area for displaying the separate documents, a control for use in selecting the separate documents for display in accordance with the ordered relationship,

and an option to display the separate documents conjoined and such that content of the separate documents is editable from the area.

The applied Chen patent is not understood to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 1, particularly with respect to an option to display the separate documents conjoined and such that content of the separate documents is editable from a display area.

More specifically, Chen describes a system for "clipping" separate documents electronically. Clipped documents remain associated with each other in a predefined order. As shown, e.g., in Figs. 12 and 13, Chen displays previews of multiple documents and, as described with respect to Fig. 16, also displays an icon or thumbnail of a document in one pane and an editable version of that document in another pane (see, e.g., column 15, lines 1 to 9 of Chen). What Chen does not disclose or suggest, however, is the ability to display separate documents conjoined such that content of the separate documents is editable.

In this regard, it was said on page 6 of the Office Action (referencing cancelled claims 32 to 34) that Chen discloses the ability to display conjoined documents and to edit separate documents. The display referred to in the Office Action is that shown in Figs. 12 and 13. The editing referred to in the Office Action is of copying or moving separate documents prior to printing, not editing their content.

Thus, as understood by Applicant, Chen fails to disclose or suggest an option to display the separate documents conjoined and such that content of the separate documents is editable from a display area. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Amended independent claim 16 is a computer program claim that roughly corresponds to claim 1; and amended independent claim 31 is an apparatus claim that

roughly corresponds to claim 1. These claims are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 1.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

No fees are believed to be due for this Amendment; however, if any fees are due, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Applicant's undersigned attorney can be reached at the address shown below. Telephone calls regarding this application should be directed to the undersigned at 617-521-7896.

Respectfully submitted,

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